



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

SEP 28 2011

Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Office of the Secretary
1000 S.W. Jackson
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Dr. Moser:

RE: Approval of TMDL for Big Creek

This letter responds to the submission from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, originally received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, on June 17, 2011, for a Total Maximum Daily Load document which contained a TMDL for total phosphorus. Big Creek was identified on the 2010 Kansas Section 303(d) List as impaired. This submission fulfills the Clean Water Act statutory requirement to develop TMDLs for impairments listed on a state's § 303(d) List. The specific impairment (water body segment and pollutant) is:

<u>Water Body Name</u>	<u>WBID</u>	<u>Pollutant</u>
Big Creek	KS-SS-07-540_1	Total Phosphorus

The EPA has completed its review of the TMDL with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, the EPA approves the submitted TMDL. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7 TMDL Decision Document which summarizes the rationale for the EPA's approval of the TMDL. The EPA believes the separate elements of the TMDL described in the enclosed document adequately address the pollutant of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety. Although the EPA does not approve the monitoring plan submitted by the state, the EPA acknowledges the state's efforts. The EPA understands that the state may use the monitoring plan to gauge the effectiveness of the TMDL and determine if future revisions are necessary or appropriate to meet applicable water quality standards.

The EPA is currently in consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this TMDL document. While we are approving this TMDL at the present time, we may decide that changes to the TMDL are warranted based upon the results of the consultation when it is completed.

The EPA appreciates the thoughtful effort that the KDHE has put into this TMDL. We will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by the KDHE to develop remaining TMDLs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Flourney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "K" and "F".

Karen Flourney
Acting Division Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Mitchell, Director, Division of Environment, KDHE
Mr. Tom Stiles, KDHE
Mr. Dan Mulhern and Mr. John Meisner, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manhattan